

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 HONG KONG 9123

NOT RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJ: WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA NO. 31

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SUMMARY: ON JULY 28, A MASSIVE EARTHQUAKE STRUCK IN NORTH CHINA'S HOPEI PROVINCE, RESULTING IN EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE. WITH THECONTINUING THREAT OF AFTERSHOCKS IN THE PEKING AREA, THE CAPITAL'S RESIDENTS ARE PREPARATING FOR AN EXTENDED STAY IN THE OPEN AND FOREING MISSIONS HAVE BEGUN TO EVACUATE NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS. THE EXACT EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE WILL NOT BE KNOW FOR SOME TIME AND LEADERSHIP ATTENTION TO RELIEFOPERATIONS WILL PROBABLY DAMPEN NATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN IN UPCOMING WEEKS. AFTER THE CANCELLATION OF THE JULY 31 PEKING BAQUET TO MARK THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY ON AUGUST 1, CHINA'S PROVINCES COMMEMORATED THE EVENT WITH SUBDUED MEETINS AND LITTLE ATTENTION TO MILITARY-RELATED THEMES. IN HUNAN, PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN CHANG PING-HUA, UNDER CONTINUING POSTER
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ATTACK, HEADED A DELEGATION TO GREET VISITING BOTSWANA PRESIDENT KHAMA, MARKING CHANG'S FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE SINCE MAY. END SUMMARY

1. EARTHQUAKE

ON JULY 28, AT APPROXIMATELY 0347 HOURS, TANGSHAN IN NORTH CHINA'S HOPEI PROVINCE WAS STRUCK BY THE WORLD'S WORST

EARTHQUAKE IN 12 YEARS BY MOST ACCOUNTS. ACCORDING TO THE PRC MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE QUAKE REACHED 7.5 MAGNITUDE WITH THE EPICENTER 96 MILES SOUTHEAST OF PEKING AT 39.4 DEGREES NORTH, 118.1 DEGREES EAST IN THE TANGSHAN-FENGSHAN AREA (PEKING 1407, 1426). SOME FOREIGN PRESS ACCOUNTS STATE THAT THE QUAKE MAY HAVE REACHED 8.3 ON THE RICHTER SCALE. TANGSHAN AND THE TIENTSIN AREA HAVE BEEN HIT BY NUMEROUS AFTERSHOCKS INCLUDING 3 MAJOR TREMORS ON THE FIRST DAY AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK. AN OFFICIAL CHINESE REPORT ON AUGUST 2 STATED THAT THE TANGSHAN-TIENTSIN-PEKING AREA EXPERIENCED 110 AFTERSHOCKS INCLUDING 15 OF MORE THAN 5 IN MAGNITUDE (PEKING 1458). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

2. BY MOST ACCOUNTS, DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE WAS EXTREMELY HEAVY AND THE CHINESE ACKNOWLEDGED "EXTREMELY SERIOUS DAMAGE AND LOSS OF LIFE" IN AN OFFICIAL CONDOLENCE MESSAGE ISSUED BY CHAIRMAN MAO AND THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON JULY 29. HOWEVER, INITIAL REPORTS INDICATE THAT LOSS OF LIFE TO FOREIGNERS IN THE AREA WAS LIGHT WITH ONE FRENCH WOMAN AND ONE JAPANESE KILLED WITH TWO MISSING IN TANGSHAN. USLO REPORTED NO INJURIES TO AMERICAN PERSONNEL (PEKING 1407) AND ALL AMERICANS IN CHINA AT THE TIME WERE APPARENTLY UNINJURED. AS YET, THERE ARE NO RELIABLE ESTIMATES OF CHINESE CASUALTIES. UNCLASSIFIED

3. SINCE INITIAL SHOCK, MOST PEKING RESIDENTS HAVE REMAINED OUTDOORS AND ARE PREPARING FOR AN EXTENDED STAY IN THE OPEN. ACCORDING TO ONE CHINESE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE EPICENTER OF THE QUAKE ACTIVITY WAS APPROACHING PEKING AND A SERIOUS SHOCK COULD BE EXPECTED "WITHIN A FEW DAYS" (PEKING 1458). SO FAR, THIS HAS NOT OCCURRED, BUT PEKING RESIDENTS ARE REMAINING IN THE STREETS AND ARE SLEEPING UNDER MAKESHIFT SHELTERS. UNCLASSIFIED
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4. DAMAGE TO THE USLO BUILDING WAS VERY SLIGHT BUT LARGE CRACKS APPEARED IN SOME OF THE BUILDINGS THAT HOUSE DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL (PEKING 1407) AFTER THE INITIAL SHOCK, AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS WERE MOVED TO THE USLO COMPOUND AS A PRECAUTION AGAINST FURTHER AFTERSHOCKS. (PEKING 1439). UNCLASSIFIED

5. ON AUGUST 1, THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ENCOURAGED ALL FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, TO EVACUATE THE CITY. ACCORDINGLY, SEVERAL EMBASSIES, INCLUDING THE BRITISH, NEW ZEALAND AUSTRALIAN, CANADIAN EMBASSIES AS WELL AS USLO, HAVE BEGUN TO SEND DEPENDENTS AND NON-ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL OUT OF THE COUNTRY (PEKING 1452). FOREIGN STUDENTS IN PEKING

HAVE BEEN SENT ON A 30-DAY TOUR OF SOUTH CHINA(PEKING 1492). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

6. ACCORDING TO OFFICAL NCNA ANNOUNCEMENTS, A MASSIVE RELIEF OPERATION IS UNDERWAY IN THE TIENTSIN-TANGSHAN AREA WHICH IS ONE OF CHINA'S KEY INDUSTRIAL CENTERS AND AS A RESULT, LEADERSHIP ATTENTION WILL PROBABLY BE DIVERTED FROM ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES IN UPCOMING WEEKS. THE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WILL SERVERLY AFFECT NORTH CHINA'S COAL, STEEL AND TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRIES, BUT THE FULL ECONOMIC IMPACT WILL NOT BE KNOW FOR MANY MONTHS. DAMAGE TO THE KUEILIEN COAL MINES, HOWEVER, MAY NOT BE AS SERIOUS AS FIRST THOUGHT. A PRC OFFICIAL TOLD THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN PEKING THAT THE UNDERGROUNG MINES SUFFERED "VERY LITTLE DAMAGE" (PEKING 1492). AND NCNA REPORTED THAT THE "OVERWHELMING MAJORITY" OF THE MINERS REACHED SAFETY. LIMITED OFFICAL USE

7. LOW KEY COMMEMORATION OF THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY.

AFTER CANCELLATION OF THE TRADITIONAL PEKING BAQUET WITH ITS EXPECTED HEAVY TURNOUT OF PRC MILITARY FIGURES BACUASE OF THE JULY 28 EARTHQUAKE, MOST OF CHINA'S PROVINCES MARKED THE 49TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY WITH SUBDUED RALLIES. ATTENDENCE BY CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVINCIAL POLITICAL LEADERS AND LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDERS WAS LIGHT, WITH SPEECHES AND MEDIA COMMENTARY PAYING LITTLE ATTENTION TO CONTROVERSIAL MILITARY ISSUES. INSTEAD, CAMPAIGN THEMES AND A GENERAL EXHORTATION TO "LEARN FROM THE PLA" AND PARY LEADERSHIP OVER THE ARMY HAVE BEEN STRESSED. IN CONTRAST TO LAST YEAR'S CELEBRATION WHICH BROUGHT NUMEROUS LEADERSHIP APPEARANCE AND THE IDENTIFI-CATION OF MANY NEW APPOINTMENTS, THIS YEAR'S ACTIVITIES HAVE NOT SHED ANY LIGHT ON MAJOR PERSONNEL SHIFTS THAT MAY HAVE OCCURED AS A RESULT OF THE CAMPAIGN AGSINT TENG HSIAO-POING. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

FBIS OKINAWA

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMIPAC

CHMAAGCHINA

COMUSTDC

CDR USACC TAIWAN

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NOFORN

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8. HUNAN'S CHANG PING-HUA REAPPEARS

ALTHOUGH REPORTED UNDER CONTINUING POSTER ATTACK, AN NCNA ENGLISH ITEM NOTES THAT HUNANA PROVINCIAL REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE (RC) 1ST VICE CHAIRMAN CHANG PING-HUA HEADED A RECEPTION COMMITTEE FOR VISITING BOTSWANA PRESIDENT KHAMA ON AUGUST 2. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN UNDER POSTER ATTACK INCLUDED PROVINCIAL RC VICE CHAIRMAN LI CHEN-CHUN AND CHANGSHA CITY RC CHAIRMAN CHI SHOU-LIANG. THE BANQUET FOR THE AFRICAN LEADER MARKED THE FIRST APPEARANCE FOR THE HUNAN FIGURES SINCE MAY. CONFIDENTIAL

9. ATTACKS ON CHANG ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEGUN AS EARLY AS FEBRUARY AND HAVE ATTEMPTED TO LINK HIM CLOSELY WITH TENG HSIAO-PING AND HIS POLICIES. HOWEVER, THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT CHANG MAY ENJOY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PLA SUPPORT, AND HIS POSITION MAY NOT BE OVERLY PRECARIOUS (HONG KONG 9122).

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10. THE EARTHQUAKE AND FOREIGN VISITORS

WITH ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE PREDICTED TO STRIKE IN THE PEKING REGION, MOST AUGUST VISITS BY FOREIGN DELEGATIONS ARE BEING POSTPONED. MEANWHILE, HIGH-LEVEL DELEGATIONS ALREADY IN CHINA WERE WINDING UP THEIR VISITS. AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION LEADER GOUGH WHITLAM DEPARTED PEKING THE DAY OF THE EARTHQUAKE, JULY 28. IRANIAN PRINCESS PAHLAVI, AFTER TOURING SZECHUAN AND TIBET, DEPARTED FROM PEKING AUGUST 1. BOTSWANA'S PRESIDENT KHAMA, VISITING SOUTHERN CHINA, IS SAFELY OUT OF THE EARTHQUAKE AREA. UNCLASSIFIED

11. THE CHINESE HAVE DECLINED ALL OFFERS OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. A PRC OFFICIAL REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED CHINA'S

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APPRECIATION FOR AN OFFER OF AMERICAN ASSISTANCE BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT "OUR PRACTICE" TO ACCEPT IT. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF SYMPATHY FROM VARIOUS FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND FRIENDLY COMMUNIST PARTIES, HOWEVER, HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE CHINESE DOMESTIC MEDIA (NCNA JULY 28-AUGUST 3, SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST AUGUST 3, AFP AUGUST 2, KYODO JULY 30). UNCLASSIFIED

12. THE UNITED STATES

IN A DECIDEDLY UPBEAT FASHION, NCNA HAS CARRIED A REPORT

ON AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER FRASER'S RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND THE FORD-FRASER JOINT STATEMENT OF JULY 28. NCNA NOTED THE TWO LEADERS' VIEWS ON VARIOUS MATTERS, INCLUDING CHINA. IT CITED PRESIDENT FORD'S REAFFIRMATION OF U.S. DETERMINATION TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS OF NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH THE PRC ON THE BASIS OF THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE, MARKING THE FIRST TIME THAT CHINA'S DOMESTIC MEDIA HAS CITED A HIGH-LEVEL U.S. OFFICIAL'S STATEMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH CHINA IN RECENT MONTHS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

13. MEANWHILE, IN HONG KONG, THE PRC-OWNED WEN WEI PAO (AUGUST 4) PICKED UP A WASHINGTON-SOURCED AP REPORT ON SENATOR SCOTT'S RECENT VISIT TO CHINA AND TALKS WITH PRC LEADERS. THE REPORT, CARRIED ON AN INSIDE PAGE, CITED THE SENATOR'S IMPRESSION THAT CHINESE LEADERS BELIEVE THE U.S. IS NOT IMPLEMENTING THE 1972 AGREEMENT AND HIS OBSERVATION THAT, WHILE IN THE PAST, PRC LEADERS HAVE DECLARED THAT "WE CHINESE ARE A PATIENT PEOPLE," THEY ARE NO LONGER USING THIS WORDING. THE ARTICLE ALSO NOTED THAT THE SENATOR WILL MAKE A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CITED PEKING'S THREE REQUIREMENTS FOR NORMALIZATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

14. THE JULY 28 MEETING OF VICE FONGMIN WANG HAI-JUNG WITH THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE STAFF DELEGATION AND AN EARLIER JULY 27 BANQUET FOR THE GROUP HOSTED BY KO PO-NIEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTED BY NCNA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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15. ON OTHER U.S.-RELATED REPORTING, THE HONG KONG WEN WEI PAO ON AUGUST 4 FEATURED A COMMENTARY ENTITLED "AMERICA'S BOLD POLICY." IT WAS PEGGED TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AUGUST 2 SPEECH DECLARING THAT THE U.S. WOULD CARRY OUT A DARING AND ACTIVE POLICY TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE COMMENTARY SCRUTINIZED THE MAIN TENETS OF THE U.S. POLICIES TOWARD AFRICA: SUPPORT FOR BLACK MAJORITY RULE, PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF MINORITY WHITES, AND OPPOSITION TO CONTINUED SOVIET EXPANSION. IT CONCLUDED THAT DESPITE REPEATED KISSINGER AND FORD WARNINGS TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT CONTINUED EXPANSION IN AFRICA, THE U.S. PURSUIT OF A DUAL POLICY, PARTICULARLY DETENTE WITH THE SOVIETS, RENDERS THE "DARING" U.S. POLICY TOWARD AFRICA A FEEBLE ONE WHICH THE SOVIETS WILL NOT HEED (NCNA JULY 27 AND 28). LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

16. JAPAN

IN JULY 28 STATEMENTS TO THE DIET, PRIME MINISTER MIKKI AND FONMIN MIYAZAWA MOVED TO SMOOTH PEKING'S SENSIBILITIES RUFFLED OVER EARLIER MIYAZAWA REMARKS ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES (SEE WEEKS 29 AND 30). THE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT JAPAN SHOULD NOT COMMENT ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS OR THE U.S. SECURITY TREATY WITH TAIWAN. CASTING A MORE POSITIVE LIGHT ON RELATIONS WITH PEKING, HE INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO TRAVEL TO CHINA HIMSELF IF NECESSARY FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A SINO-JAPANESE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY (PFT). MIKKI REPORTEDLY ALSO REQUESTED DIET MEMBER AND PRESIDENT OF JAPAN'S AMATEUR SPORTS ASSOCIATION KENZO KONO TO CONVEY JAPAN'S INTEREST IN CONCLUSION OF THE PFT TO CHINESE LEADERS DURING KONO'S SEPTEMBER VISIT TO THE PRC FOR TALKS ON ATHLETIC MATTERS. FONMIN MIYAZAWA, IN ADDITION TO ASSOCIATING HIMSELF WITH MIKKI'S AVOWED INTEREST IN CONCLUDING THE PFT, OFFERED A SLIGHT APOLOGY FOR THIS "CARELESS" EXPLANATION TO REPORTERS OF VIEWS EXPRESSED TO SENATOR MANSFIELD ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS. ON THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES ISSUE, HE MAINTAINED THAT HE HAD STRESSED ONLY THAT "IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE FOR NON-JAPANESE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER WITHIN JAPAN." HE ADDED
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"ANYONE IS FREE TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE MATTER OUTSIDE JAPAN." CONFIDENTIAL/NOFORN

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MRN: 1976HONG K009123 SEGMENT NUMBER: 000003 ERROR READING TEXT INDEX

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